



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 26, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 59/HR 58 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A
MOBILE APPLICATION FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

Hearing: March 27, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of these resolutions to incorporate modern technology in the effort to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. DHS provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions are to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to develop a mobile application for reporting child abuse and neglect.

DHS is open to learn more from the Department of Education about the development of its bullying application and its effectiveness in reducing bullying in schools.

DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) is currently in the planning stages of building a new information technology (IT) system for child welfare cases. With further review of the mobile app, CWS branch will need time to consider how to incorporate a mobile app into the IT build. The current CWS IT system does not have the functional capacity to handle information from a mobile app reporting tool.

Additionally, a mobile app reporting tool will require amendment to the existing reporting law. Section 350-1.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires reports of child abuse or

neglect, or reports of imminent abuse or neglect, to be made orally to the department or to the police department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

LATE



O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 58 and HR 59

To the Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HCR 58 and HR 59. The O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities (“OCDCLP”) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HCR 58 and HR 59.**

HCR 58 and HR 59 request the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to develop a mobile application for reporting child abuse and neglect.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i (“DPH”) is committed to ending the scourge of violence against [children and] women - wherever it occurs – whether in our homes, streets, schools, military, workplace, or elsewhere. DPH will support comprehensive services for survivors and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school campuses. DPH will fight to bring an end to [child abuse and neglect, and] sexual assault – wherever it occurs, including on campuses – because everyone deserves a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support to survivors and ensure a fair process for all . . . in the criminal justice system. We will increase violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent and bystander intervention . . . *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 15, ln. 21-28.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to provide comprehensive support to survivors and to ensure a fair process for all, OCDCLP supports HCR 58 and HR 59 and urges their passage out of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HR-59

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 2:39:13 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Husted	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 25, 2019

My name is Claire E. Husted, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 59/HCR 58.

This resolution will allow any citizen to easily and quickly report child abuse through the use of app technology. Almost everyone has a cell phone and a large majority of the population have smart phones, which allow for the downloading of apps. As the app is promoted and downloaded, every citizen in the state and the country will have the ability to report child abuse, neglect, bullying in real time to the proper authorities. Many individuals may witness such acts of violence but do not know what to do and how to report them. An app designed to do this will give everyone the ability to take action in a way that maintains their own safety while alerting authorities to violence that may be in the process of happening. Perpetrators are much more likely to be caught and tried for their crimes, thereby protecting the child and perhaps even other family members who may be at risk of domestic violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Claire E. Husted, Peace Corps Volunteer, South Africa

+27 061 755 0299

cehusted@gmail.com

HR-59

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 4:56:09 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Husted	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 59 and House Concurrent Resolution 58: Requesting the Department of Human Services in Conjunction with the Department of Education to Develop a Mobile Application for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

March 26, 2019

My name is Bryan Husted, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 59/HCR 58.

This resolution will help facilitate reporting child abuse and serve as a deterrent to future child abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Bryan Husted

bwhusted@yahoo.com

HR-59

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:33:54 PM
Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nora Sanford	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 56: Requesting the Department of Department of Education to Establish training programs for the PREVENTION, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect

March 26, 2019

My name is Nora Husted Sanford, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

This resolution will make life changing impacts on our children. This resolution needs to be amended to include the words "Preventative Training" in it. Let me explain...

In 2005, my student, Talia Williams, was killed at the hands of her father. As a teacher I had years of training on how to identify abuse after it happened. Every day Talia came to school was another day I missed the carefully concealed signs and symptoms of her abuse. In the end, the system failed her, I failed her.

I ask you, what could have been done differently? After years of woulda, coulda, shouldas, I have concluded that the educational requirement to only train teachers to identify abuse is only part of the solution. The missing part of the solution is to include the families and students and teach all stakeholders in education the fundamental skills that will reduce the incidence of abuse BEFORE it happens.

What is this you ask? Think about it. When we get angry, how well do we communicate? For those individuals inclined to take out their anger and frustration in physical ways, abuse and bullying happen. Instead, if all parents, educational staff and students were provided with Preventative training at the beginning of school in how to listen for understanding, how to communicate effectively, and how to resolve conflict, then everyone is equipped with the skills needed in life. Problems happen, conflict is inevitable. But when parents, staff, and students learn and practice these basic skills,

when conflict does arise, it is dealt with in a healthy manner and ultimately the incidences of abuse and bullying will decline.

I challenge you to consider the trajectory our children are on. Undealt with anger at home effects the children. Children either implode or explode. Their emotions can go inward resulting in self harm or even worse suicide. Their emotions can explode resulting in bullying, behavioral problems, or violent retaliation. The impact of abuse is far reaching .

If one of the missing pieces to the puzzle of reducing abuse in our state is simply communication, then we must address it, teach and practice it with our families, staff and students BEFORE more children get hurt and die. I request that you amend this resolution to include the words "Preventive Training" because we need to prevent abuse before it happens so we can keep all of our children safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Nora Husted Sanford, MEdL

212 Thomas Street

Wahiawa, HI 96786

norahsanford@gmail.com

808-989-1230